

## Travel Horizons

## Tourists Crowd Six Flags over Texas

By WAYNE MCCLINTOCK  
Herald-Post Travel Writer

Paraphrasing an old saying and applying it to Six Flags Over Texas — 25 million visitors can't be wrong. They've made it Texas' number one tourist attraction.

That's the visitor total reached early in the 14th season of the popular 145-acre theme park in Arlington, midway between Dallas and Fort Worth. And the park expects to record two million visitors before the season is over.

It's easy to predict such a roaring attendance, as I found out during a recent visit to Six Flags on a Texas Tourist Development Agency tour for travel editors. It was a Saturday, the park's busiest day, and the crowd was almost shoulder to shoulder.

The American frontier, Black English (on which he wrote an earlier book) and the linguistic problems of Puerto Rico. Fascinated as he is with the diversity and variety to be found in American English, he also recognizes the pressures towards uniformity—the encouragement by schools, books and magazines and lyceum orators of a General American language style (he does not use this term) which, with the advent of radio and television, came to be known as Network Standard.

"ALL-AMERICAN ENGLISH" is enlivened throughout by the author's running fight with established American language scholars and the National Council of Teachers of English who, in his view, do not understand at all what is unique about American English. They are blinded to the linguistic realities, he believes, by their dogma that American English is simply the English of England transplanted, dialects and all. He points out indignantly that they even try to trace characteristics of Black English to provincial English dialects!

Dillard is especially critical of "Linguistic geography"—the attempt by a group of prestigious American scholars to distinguish American dialects on the basis of research into the regional distribution of folk terms: "Johnny cake" or "hoe cake?" "Angleworm" or "mudworm" or "fishworm?" This was a technique of dialect study that worked well enough for "stable European peasant populations," says Dillard, but totally unsuited for the study of Americans who, in practically any town or city, have come from all over and are likely at any time to take off for somewhere else.

There is no doubt much to be debated and argued about in Dillard's book. But it will have served its purpose if it succeeds in persuading scholars to stop treating America as, linguistically speaking, an English colony still.



McClintock

THE PARK has been open only on weekends until May 18, but now is open daily. Six Flags has more than 100 rides, shows, and attractions.

This season the park has added new attractions centered around a costume character named Professor Cyrus Cosmo. He is described by his creators as a "part-time inventor, part-time illusionist, full-time showman, and permanent purveyor of fun and fantasy."

The professor works electronic marvels in the Cyrus Cosmo Wonder Show—a baffling production of magic and illusions.

The professor has introduced a new ride—the Rotorcules, a 13-speed thrill ride housed in a specially-designed, octagonal building featuring an elaborate light and sound experience. Projections on multiple screens combine with bright, flashing lights and strange sound effects to give the ride a mind-boggling outer space aura.

THE PROFESSOR is also part of a nighttime entertainment. He climbs aboard the Cosmobus to lead the "Incredible Electric Light Brigade Parade" through the streets of Six Flags.

Still a hefty part of Six Flags prime attractions are the: 55-mile-per-hour Big Bend, the rough-riding Runaway Mine Train (with a mini Mine Train for the youngsters), and the ever-popular Log Flume that speeds you down water slides in a facsimile log to splashing fun.

ALSO THERE'S the Astrolift, the authentic steam-powered railroad, the miniature modern and antique cars, and the Carousel.

Shows available include: "Jukebox Jubilee" in the Southern Palace Music Hall, with a 12-member cast accompanied by a 15-piece orchestra; singers and dancers in the Crazy Horse Saloon; gunfighters on the streets of the Texas section; the Dry Gulch Fun Gun Show; and the Sid and Marty Kroft puppet show "Hooray for Hollywood."

On special nights, the Six Flags Music Mill Theater, in a 5000-seat amphitheater-like setting, features top-name entertainers such as the Righteous Brothers, Blue Swede, and Johnny Rodriguez—all free.

Six Flags is named for the flags that have flown over Texas during its history. It's a visit to Spain, France, Mexico, the Confederacy, the rowdy life of frontier Texas, and the U.S.

THE MEXICAN section has "La Casa de Pancho Villa, Plaza de Flores, and Fierro Carril Fiesta Train.

The Spanish section has El Aserradero log flume ride.

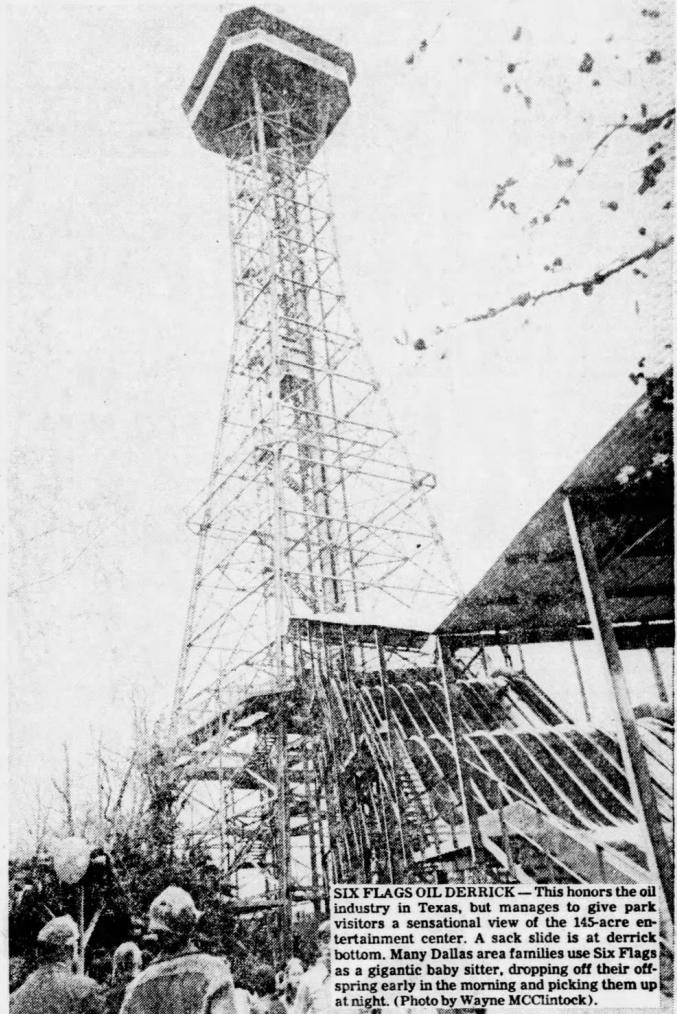
The Confederacy has Skull Island Ferry Landing, Tree House and slide, and Speelunkers Cave.

The French area has La Salle's River Boat and Caddo canoes.

The Texas area has a Sheriff's office and jail, and Crazy Horse Saloon.

The USA section has a jungle aviary, animal kingdom; astrolift, and a variety of rides in Good Times Square.

STANDING OUT above all is the "Oil Derrick" tower that



SIX FLAGS OIL DERRICK — This honors the oil industry in Texas, but manages to give park visitors a sensational view of the 145-acre entertainment center. A sack slide is at derrick bottom. Many Dallas area families use Six Flags as a gigantic baby sitter, dropping off their offspring early in the morning and picking them up at night. (Photo by Wayne McClintock)

offers a fantastic view, as well as a sack slide in the lower level.

Tickets to Six Flags are all-inclusive, covering all rides, shows, attractions, and superstar concerts. Adults pay \$7

and children three through 11 pay \$6. Three and under are free.

Six Flags is just off the Dallas-Fort Worth Turnpike, approximately 20 minutes from either city. Turnpike toll

is 30 cents. Parking at Six Flags costs 50 cents, with a free tram to the main entrance. A 25-cents-a-day air-conditioned kennel is provided for pets, which are not allowed inside the park.

## Tourists Crowd Six Flags Over Texas

Clipped By:  
C\_St\_Reed  
Jan 11, 2025